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INQUIRIES

BY THE

Agricultural Society.

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With a view to collect the moſt accurate Information on the principal Branches of Agriculture, as now practiſed, and thus be enabled to propagate the knowledge of whatever ſhall be found uſeful ; and to open more wide the way for future improvements, the following Inquiries are addreſſed to

Mr.

by the TRUSTEES of the MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY for PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.

I. OF what quantity of land do the Farms in your vicinity generally conſiſt ?

II. WHAT is the quality of the Soil ?

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III. INTO what portions of Paſture, Mowing and Tillage, Orcharding and Wood, are Farms uſually divided? Are the Orchards improving or declining? Do they yield a competent ſupply of Cider?

IV. HOW much land on each Farm is annually (on an average of years) planted or ſown with Grain of any kind?

V. IN what manner is the land prepared, manured, and ſeeded with each kind of Grain, and what is a medium Crop?

VI. In what manner is Indian Corn cultivated and what is the medium Crop on an Acre?

VII. WHAT is the quantity and value of the Straw on an Acre of Barley, Rye, Oats and Wheat *reſpectively?* And to how much Upland Hay are they *reſpectively* equivalent for Fodder?

VIII. WHAT is the value of Straw of each kind, for any purpoſe, *other than Fodder or Litter?*

IX. WHAT is the value of the Stover or Stalks on an Acre of Indian Corn, and to what quantity of Upland Hay is it equivalent for Fodder?

X. WHAT quantity of land, on a medium Farm, is annually planted with Potatoes ?— How is the land prepared ? What quantity and kind of manure is applied to an Acre, and in what Manner ?— How much ſeed is uſed, and how is it ſelected ? How are they cultivated, and what is a medium Crop ?

XI. HOW many buſhels of Potatoes are equivalent, ordinarily, to one buſhel of Indian Corn, for Sale ?

XII. HOW many days labour of a man are uſually employed on an Acre of Indian Corn, including the getting in all the Stover and ſtripping the Huſks from the Ears ?

XIII. WHAT is the labour of Shelling 100 buſhels of Indian Corn, and in what manner is it Performed ?

XIV. HOW many days Labour of a man are uſually employed on an Acre of Potatoes, including the getting in the Crop ?

XV. IS there any order or ſucceſſion of Crops known to be beneficial or pernicious to the Soil ?— If any, what is it ?

XVI. WHAT is the uſual courſe of Crops ?

XVII. WHAT is the medium quantity of Hay produced on an Acre of Upland, and what is the Labour of mowing, curing and houſing it ?

XVIII. WHAT is the medium product of Hay, on an acre of freſh Meadow; and what is the Labour, of mowing, curing, and houſing, or ſtacking it?

XIX. WHAT is the proportion of value which Freſh Meadow Hay bears to Upland Hay, each being of a medium quality?

XX. IS any Tillage land laid down with Graſs Seeds, without ſowing grain at the ſame Time? If ſo, which method is found beſt?

XXI. WHAT are the kinds of Graſs cut on the Upland for Hay? What proportion is from Seed ſown by hand, and what are the kinds thus ſown; and in what quantities *reſpectively* per Acre?

XXII. ARE any Graſs lands *new* ſeeded after ſcarifying them with the Harrow only, or in any other mode, without plowing? And what is the ſucceſs of ſuch practice?

XXIII. WHAT weeds, vermin or inſects infeſt the mowing lands?

XXIV. ARE the ſpontaneous or cultivated Graſses infeſted moſt?

XXV. WHAT methods are uſed to deſtroy weeds, vermin or inſects, without ploughing the land, and what is their ſucceſs?

XXVI. WHAT kinds of Beaſts, and in what numbers are they, reſpectively, kept on medium Farms? And how are they ſubſiſted?

XXVII. IN what place and in what manner are the Cattle fed with the coarſe winter Fodder? Is it given in the ſtable, in the yard or the field? Is it chopped or given whole?

XXVIII. HOW much Butter is uſually made in a year from a Cow, all the cream being churned? And how much ſkim-milk Cheeſe is made from this ſame Cow?

XXIX. WHAT Food is given to Sheep beſides Graſs and Hay?

XXX. WHAT is the Value of the Subſiſtence of a Sheep through the year, beſides the Paſturage?

XXXI. WHAT is the Value of Paſturage for a Sheep compared with the Paſturage of a Cow?

XXXII. WHAT is the ordinary Weight and Value of the Fleſh of a Sheep when fit for the Butcher? And what is the Quantity of Wool in a Fleece?

XXXIII. WHAT Breed of Swine are propagated? How are they fed—How fatted? At what age are they killed; and what do they then weigh?

XXXIV. WHAT number of Bee-hives are kept, what is their product in Honey and Wax—what is the management—and what are the Obſtacles which diſcourage their extenſive propagation?

XXXV. WHAT is the uſual quantity of land ſowed with Flax-ſeed? How is it manured and cultivated? And what is the medium, Produce of Flax and Seed in quantity and value?

XXXVI. HOW much Labour is employed on a quarter of an Acre of Flax, before it comes to the Spinner, and including the preparing the Seed for market?

XXXVII. IN what articles conſiſts the Surplus of the Farmer, which is ſold or exchanged for other articles?

XXXVIII. HOW many Loads of Manure are collected (eſtimating 30 buſhels to a Load,) from the Cattle in the Barn-yard, of a medium Farm, in a year—ſpecifying the number and kinds of Cattle kept on the ſame Farm, and the manner in which they are kept in relation to confinement or ranging abroad?

XXXIX. WHAT Quantity of Manure is made in the Hog-pen?—ſpecifying the number of Swine fatted, the kind and quantity of Food conſumed, and the weight of Fleſh produced?

XL. WHAT methods are uſed to enlarge the quantity, improve the quality or prevent waſte of the Manure, made in the Barn-yard or Hog-pen, and eſpecially to ſave the Stale of the Cattle?

XLI. IS the manure and tillage Labour excluſively applied to the beſt parts of each Farm?

XLII. IN what manner and for what purpoſes is Manure uſed, except thoſe indicated in the foregoing inquiries?

XLIII. WHAT other Manures are uſed beſides thoſe created by the Stock, and what are their merits compared with theſe ?

XLIV. IS Limeſtone found in your vicinity ? Is it uſed as a manure ?

XLV. IS Buck-wheat cultivated for the Food it yields ? Or is it uſed to cleanſe the ſoil from weeds, to fertiliſe and enrich it, or for any other purpoſe ?—

XLVI. IN what Manner are new Lands brought under Cultivation ? Is it cuſtomary to plant Orchards in the new ſettlements ?

XLVII. HOW is Land cleared, which buſhes and under-bruſh have overrun, ſince the trees were carried off?

XLVIII. WHAT is done with Swamps, or Swampy Lands?—

XLIX. IS the growth of Wood for timber and fuel equivalent to the conſumption in your vicinity?—If not, what meaſures are taken to provide againſt the inconvenience of future ſcarcity?

L. ARE Wood-lots generally fenced, or left open for cattle to range in without reſtraint? In getting your Wood for fuel, do you pick the oldeſt trees, or do you cut clear? Which method is beſt calculated to increaſe the value of your Wood Lands?

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With a view to collect the most accurate information on the principal branches of Agriculture, as now practised, and thus be enabled to propagate the knowledge of whatever shall be found useful; and to open more wide, the way for future improvements, the following inquiries are addressed to

by the TRUSTEES *of the* MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY *for* PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.

I. OF what quantity of land do the Farms in your vicinity generally consist?

II. WHAT is the quality of the Soil?

III. INTO what portions of Pasture, Mowing and Tillage, Orcharding and Wood, are Farms usually divided? Are the Orchards improving or declining? Do they yield a competent supply of Cider?

IV. HOW much land on each Farm, is annually, (on an average of years,) planted or sown with Grain of any kind?

V. IN what manner is the land prepared, manured, and seeded with each kind of Grain, and what is a medium Crop?

VI. IN what manner is Indian Corn cultivated, and what is the medium Crop on an Acre?

VII. WHAT is the quantity and value of the Straw on an Acre of Barley, Rye, Oats and Wheat *respectively?* And to how much Upland Hay are they *respectively* equivalent for Fodder?

VIII. WHAT is the value of Straw of each kind, for any purpose, *other than Fodder or Litter?*

IX. WHAT is the value of the Stover or Stalks on an Acre of Indian Corn, and to what quantity of Upland Hay is it equivalent for Fodder?

X. WHAT quantity of land, on a medium Farm, is annually planted with Potatoes?—How is the land prepared? What quantity and kind of manure is applied to an Acre, and in what Manner?—How much seed is used, and how is it selected? How are they cultivated, and what is a medium Crop?

XI. HOW many bushels of Potatoes are equivalent, ordinarily, to one bushel of Indian Corn, for Sale?

XII. HOW many days labour of a man, are usually employed on an Acre of Indian Corn, including the getting in all the Stover and stripping the Husks from the Ears?

XIII. WHAT is the labour of Shelling a hundred bushels of Indian Corn, and in what manner is it performed?

XIV. HOW many days Labour of a man are usually employed on an Acre of Potatoes, including the getting in the Crop?

XV. IS there any order or succession of Crops known to be beneficial or pernicious to the Soil?—If any, what is it?

XVI. WHAT is the usual course of Crops?

XVII. WHAT is the medium quantity of Hay produced on an Acre of Upland, and what is the Labour of mowing, curing and housing it?

XVIII. WHAT is the medium product of Hay, on an Acre of fresh Meadow; and what is the Labour of mowing, curing, and housing, or stacking it?

XIX. WHAT is the proportion of value which Fresh Meadow Hay bears to Upland Hay, each being of a medium quality?

XX. IS any Tillage land laid down with Grass Seeds, without sowing Grain at the same time? If so, which method is found best?

XXI. WHAT are the kinds of Grass cut on the Upland for Hay? What proportion is from Seed sown by hand, and what are the kinds thus sown, and in what quantities *respectively* per Acre?

XXII. ARE any Grass lands *new* seeded after scarifying them with the Harrow only, or in any other mode, without ploughing? And what is the success of such practice?

XXIII. WHAT weeds, vermin or insects infest the mowing lands?

XXIV. ARE the spontaneous or cultivated Grasses infested most?

XXV. WHAT methods are used to destroy weeds, vermin or insects, without ploughing the land, and what is their success?

XXVI. WHAT kinds of Beasts, and in what numbers are they, respectively, kept on medium Farms? And how are they subsisted?

XXVIII. IN what place and in what manner are the Cattle fed with the coarse winter Fodder? Is it given in the stable, in the yard or the field? Is it chopped or given whole?

XXVIII. HOW much Butter is usually made in a year from a Cow, all the cream being churned? And how much skim-milk Cheese is made from this same Cow?

XXIX. WHAT Food is given to Sheep besides Grass and Hay?

XXX. WHAT is the Value of the Subsistence of a Sheep through the year, besides the Pasturage?

XXXI. WHAT is the Value of Pasturage for a Sheep compared with the Pasturage of a Cow?

XXXII. WHAT is the ordinary Weight and Value of the Flesh of a Sheep when fit for the Butcher? And what is the Quantity of Wool in a Fleece?

XXXIII. WHAT Breed of Swine are propagated How are they fed—How fatted? At what age are they killed; and what do they then weigh?

XXXIV. WHAT number of Bee-hives are kept, what is their product in Honey and wax—what is the management—and what are the Obstacles which discourage their extensive propagation?

XXXV. WHAT is the usual quantity of land sowed with Flax-seed? How is it manured and cultivated? And what is the medium produce of Flax and Seed in quantity and value?

XXXVI. HOW much Labour is employed on a quarter of an acre of Flax, before it comes to the Spinner, and including the preparing the Seed for market?

XXXVII. IN what articles consists the Surplus of the Farmer, which is sold or exchanged for other articles?

XXXVIII. HOW many Loads of Manure are collected (estimating 30 bushels to a Load,) from the Cattle in the Barn-yard, of a medium Farm, in a year—specifying the number and kinds of Cattle kept on the same Farm, and the manner in which they are kept in relation to confinement or ranging abroad?

XXXIX. WHAT Quantity of Manure is made in the Hog-pen?—specifying the number of Swine fatted, the kind and quantity of Food consumed, and the weight of Flesh produced?

XL. WHAT methods are used to enlarge the quantity, improve the quality, or prevent waste of the Manure made in the Barn-yard or Hog-pen, and especially to save the Stale of the Cattle?

XLI. IS the manure and tillage labour exclusively applied to the best parts of each Farm?

XLII. IN what manner and for what purposes is Manure used, except those indicated in the foregoing inquiries?

XLIII. WHAT other Manures are used besides those created by the Stock, and what are their merits compared with these?

XLIV. IS Limestone found in your vicinity? Is it used as a manure?

XLV. IS Buck-wheat cultivated for the Food it yields? Or is it used to cleanse the soil from weeds, to fertilize and enrich it, or for any other purpose?

XLVI. IN what manner are new Lands brought under Cultivation? Is it customary to plant Orchards in the new settlements?

XLVII. HOW is Land cleared, which bushes and under-brush have overrun, since the trees were carried off?

XLVIII. WHAT is done with Swamps, or Swampy Lands?

XLIX. IS the growth of Wood for timber and fuel equivalent to the consumption in your vicinity? If not, what measures are taken to provide against the inconvenience of future scarcity?

L. ARE Wood-lots generally fenced, or left open for cattle to range in without restraint? In getting your Wood for fuel, do you pick the oldest tress, or do you cut clear? Which method is best calculated to increase the value of your Wood lands?

LI. WHAT are the causes that the culture of Wheat can no longer be pursued on the sea coast of New-England.

LII. HOW far has Gypsum (Plaister of Paris) been fairly tried as a manure in the maritime parts of this state, what have been the effects of the experiment?

LIII. IS the European practice of a succession of Crops found to be expedient in this country, and in what order ought such a succession to take place?

LIV. IS it perfectly ascertained, that with proper attention to Manuring the land, it is more advantageous to change the crops than to keep it in Grass?

LV. IS there any crop so profitable as Grass, taking into view the state of markets in our country, and the distance at which most of our farmers are from a market?

LVI. CAN the Farmers raise any crop which, on the whole, affords them so great a profit as Grass, unless they are within twenty miles of the capital?

LVII. WHAT are the most profitable Crops which the state of Massachusetts, taking one year with another, furnishes?

LVIII. WHAT has been found to be the difference of profit between the Merino Sheep and the Sheep which formed our former stock?

LIX. IS there any cheap Fodder which can be raised for Sheep, during the winter, which will supercede or will diminish the consumption of Hay?

LX. WHAT is the comparative profit of a farm, adapted to the raising of Sheep, between the cultivation of Merinos, and the raising of any other cattle?

LXI. IS there any profit derived from the raising of Indian Corn, except for the subsistence of man, which can equal the employment of the same land in raising Grass for the support of Sheep and Cattle during the winter—what are the calculations on which such profits are founded?

LXII. WHAT are the improvements in Dairies which have been made within the last twenty years? Is the quality of the Butter and Cheese improved, and in what consists this improvement, and what are its causes?

LXIII. ARE there any improvements in the Tools of husbandry, which experience has confirmed, and what are these improvements?

LXIV. ARE there any new and valuable Fruits or productions, either contributing to the pleasure or profit of the citizens at large—what are they, what the mode of culture, and what their qualities?

LXV. ARE there any improvements in the breed of Cattle—what are they, what their qualities, and where can they be obtained?

LXVI. Are there any other improvements (not comprised under the article of manufactures) which have been made in any branch of Agriculture?